THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will vary depending on the location of the Power House. However, based on the increase in freight rate for the average lead, Department of Power have estimated that the average increase in the cost of power generation would be 0.07 paise per unit.

Clearance of Railway lines in Andhra Pradesh

*410. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three survey reports new Railway lines in Andhra Pradesh namely Bhadrachalam to Kovvur, Nadikude to Venkatagiri and Nandyal to Yarragunta are awaiting clearance and sanction from the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in sanctioning these lines, especially in view of the need for development of backward regions in upland areas of coastal districts of Rayalaseema and Telangana?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotion of literacy for SC/ST

*411. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for promotion of literacy amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the scheme in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The Government has accorded priority to the promotion of literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Special measures taken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been advised—

(1) to accord priority in covering districts having literacy rate below the national average under Adult Education Programme.

(2) to ensure that minimum coverage of SC/ST should be 30 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

(3) to open Adult Education Centres in bastis of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(ii) Specific funds are being earmarked under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rural Functional Literacy Projects.

(iii) Promotion of literacy has been identified as one of the five Technology Missions with a view to applying technology and scientific research for the benefit of the deprived sections of the society The objective of National Literacy Mission, the name given to Technology Mission for Eradication of Illiteracy, is to impart functional literacy to 80 million illeterate persons in 15—15 age-group by 1995 with the focus on rural areas, particularly persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

(iv) The Scheme of "Operation Blackboard" has been designed to implement the National Policy that all children who attain the age of about 11 years by 1990 will have had 5 years of schooling and by 1995, all children will be provided free and compulsory education upto 14 years of age. In the selection of blocks under "Operation Blackboard", preference would be given to those blocks which are educationally disadvantaged and have concentration of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Preference would also be given to trained teachers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the appointments of teachers.

(v) State Governments/Union Territories have been advised to see that the interests of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are safeguarded while implementing the Scheme of Non-Formal Education.

(vi) The following steps have been taken to promote Adult Education in Orissa:—

(1) 19 Rural Functional Literacy Projects (RFLPs) with 5700 centres are functioning in the State.

(2) 1800 centres are also functioning under the State Audlt Education Projects (SAEPs).

(3) The State was sanctioned grant for preparing 60,000 literacy kits for use by student volunteers under Mass Programme for Functional Literacy (MPFL).

(4) A grant of Rs. 18.00 lakhs has been released under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Rs. 74.70 lakhs under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) during 1987-88.

(5) 19 voluntary Agencies have been sanctioned a total grant of Rs. 28.68 lakhs for running 990 Adult Education Centres.

(6) In this year a total enrolment of 2.86 lakh persons has been reported (upto December, 1987).

Fresh plan for Adult Literacy

*412. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a fresh plan for adult literacy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government has formulated a comprehensive programme known as "National Literacy Mission" with the objective to impart functional literacy to 80 million illiterate persons in 15—35 age-group-30 million by 1990 and additional 50 million by 1995.

The strategies proposed to be adopted for implementation of National Literacy Mission (NLM) include the following:—

(i) Motivation centred programmes will be designed, with special care in regard to their form and content inputs. The programme will be linked with skill development and economic activities, health related issues, recreational and cultural activities. Attractive learning teaching material will be provided. Dedicated and well-trained instructors will be deployed. Improved learning atmosphere and arrangements for continuing education will be ensured.

(ii) Systematic efforts will be made to secure people's participation through media and communication, creation of local level participatory structures, taking out of Jatthas, training of cadres of youth, etc.

(iii) Involvement of voluntary agencies for spread of the programme, for training and technical resource development, experimentation and innovation etc. will be significantly increased. Diverse methods will be employed for identification of suitable agencies and procedures of financial assistance will be streamlined.

(iv) Existing programmes will be continued but their quality will be improved by application of proven Science and Technology inputs, better supervision, suitable training, pedagogical innovations, etc.

(v) Mass Programme of functional literacy will be launched with the help of youth, teachers, students, members of disciplined forces, ex-servicemen, prison staff, housewives, employers, trade unions, etc.

(vi) Post-literacy and continuing education will be institutionalised through establishment of Jana Shikshan Nilayams. Better use will be made of ex-